

5-11-68

## Ex-Klansman Free in Death Of Jeff Man

LAUREL, Miss. (AP) —Andre Hendry was free today following a Jones County Circuit Court jury verdict which ruled the former Waynesboro Ku Klux Klansman is innocent of murdering a Masonite Corp. guard.

Saturday's verdict climaxed the five-day trial of Hendry on the Aug. 14, 1967, slaying of Robert Anthony Billiot of Mar-rero.

Billiot, member of a security guard firm called in to assist the regular Masonite security guard force, died of a shotgun blast during a strike at the huge wood products manufacturing plant here.

The state's case was centered around a tape recording in which a voice identified as that of Hendry told of an earlier conversation in which he plotted Billiot's death.

Jesse White, star prosecution witness, testified that he made the recording while he and Hendry sat in his auto. White told the court he has sold the tape to Masonite for more than \$20,000.

Lerner L. Lee also was indicted in the Billiot case but it was not known whether he will be tried. Dist. Atty. Harold Odom filed a motion several months ago to have his case passed to the files and that motion was still pending.